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Preliminary Amendment

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 4, between “Brief Description of the Drawings” and the first paragraph, please insert:

The patent or application file contains at least one drawing executed in color. Copies of this patent or patent application publication with the color drawings will be provided by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office upon request and payment of the necessary fee.

Page 4, ninth full paragraph, please replace with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 8 shows a chart representing a comparison of the compressive strength of the cartilage tissue 4 weeks after culture (~~left~~)(right) and that of the articular cartilage tissue of a normal rabbit (~~right~~)(left).

Page 5, first full paragraph, please replace with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 10 shows a chart representing a comparison of the hardness of a site of transplantation (~~left~~)(right) and that of the articular cartilage tissue of a normal rabbit (~~right~~)(left).

Page 14, first full paragraph, please replace with the following amended paragraph:

The hardness of the transplanted tissue was measured by applying a probe to the site of measurement and detecting a change in frequency using the Venus Rod (Axiom). Fig. 10 shows the result of measuring the hardness at the site of transplantation (~~left~~)(right) and that at the articular cartilage tissue of a normal rabbit (~~right~~)(left).